

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the present application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. Cancelled.
2. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing differentiation of osteoblasts in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) ~~an~~ $\text{ERR}\alpha$ agonist;
 - b) ~~a substantially purified~~ $\text{ERR}\alpha$ protein;
 - c) ~~a nucleotide sequence encoding~~ $\text{ERR}\alpha$ protein; and
 - d) ~~an agent which enhances expression of a gene encoding an~~ $\text{ERR}\alpha$ protein.
- 3-15. Cancelled.
16. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the mammal suffers from a disorder associated with bone loss or bone degeneration.
17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, Paget's disease, periodontal disease, osteolytic bone tumor metastases, osteochondrodysplasias, osteogenesis imperfecta, sclerosing bone displasias and osteomalacia.
18. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the agonist is administered systemically or orally.